The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hydrodynamic torque transmitting device, comprising:

an input side front cover;

an impeller being coupled to the front cover to form a fluid chamber therewith;

a turbine having a turbine hub, and a vane portion disposed inside the fluid chamber and opposite the impeller; ~~and~~

a piston having a disk-shaped main body, a frictional coupling portion disposed on an outer peripheral portion of the main body being configured to couple frictionally with the front cover, and a support portion being configured to support the turbine in the axial direction when the piston moves toward the front cover, the support portion having a flat surface axially contacting the turbine and a cylindrical portion extending axially from an innermost peripheral edge of the piston, the flat surface and the cylindrical portion being arranged to extend from the innermost peripheral edge, the piston being disposed to divide a space between the front cover and the turbine into a front chamber on a front cover side and a rear chamber on a turbine side and being configured to move toward and away from the front cover by a pressure differential created by fluid between the front chamber and rear chamber[[,]]; and

an elastic coupling mechanism being arranged at an outer peripheral portion of the turbine and the piston to couple the turbine and the piston,

the turbine hub and the front cover respectively including opposing portions being mutually opposed to each other across a space in an axial direction, and

the opposing portions being configured to maintain a gap in the axial direction therebetween to prevent a load from the turbine being applied to the front cover when the piston moves to a position closest to the front cover.

2. (Previously Presented) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein

the opposing portions are directly opposite each other in the axial direction, and

the axial distance between the opposing portions is longer than the axial distance between the frictional coupling portion and the front cover when the piston moves to a position furthest from the front cover.

3. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein the support portion of the piston is an annular portion having a constant radial width.

4. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 3, wherein the radial width of the support portion of the piston is larger than a plate thickness of the piston.

5. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 4, wherein the radial width of the support portion of the piston is two or more times larger than the plate thickness of the piston.

6. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein the turbine side of the support portion of the piston has a flat surface that extends perpendicular to the rotation axis.

7. (Previously Presented) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein

the piston includes a cylindrical portion that extends from an inner peripheral edge of the main body of the piston toward the front cover, and

the inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical portion is supported on an outer peripheral surface of the turbine hub such that the cylindrical portion is movable in a rotational direction and the axial direction.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~comprising:~~

~~an input side front cover;~~

~~an impeller being coupled to the front cover to form a fluid chamber therewith;~~

~~a turbine having a turbine hub, and a vane portion disposed inside the fluid chamber and opposite the impeller; and~~

~~a piston having a disk-shaped main body, a frictional coupling portion disposed on an outer peripheral portion of the main body being configured to couple frictionally with the front cover, and a support portion being configured to support the turbine in the axial direction when the piston moves toward the front cover, the piston being disposed to divide a space between the front cover and the turbine into a front chamber on a front cover side and a~~

~~rear chamber on a turbine side and being configured to move toward and away from the front cover by a pressure differential created by fluid between the front chamber and rear chamber, the piston including a cylindrical portion extending from an inner peripheral edge of the main body of the piston toward the front cover, the inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical portion being supported on an outer peripheral surface of the turbine hub, the cylindrical portion being movable in a rotational direction and the axial direction,~~ the axial position of the axial end of the cylindrical portion being in axial alignment with an axial engine side surface of the turbine hub[[,]]

~~the turbine hub and the front cover respectively including opposing portions being mutually opposed to each other across a space in an axial direction, and~~

~~the opposing portions being configured to maintain a gap in the axial direction therebetween to prevent a load from the turbine being applied to the front cover when the piston moves to a position closest to the front cover~~.

9. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 7, wherein a portion of the turbine hub that is in contact with the cylindrical portion includes a seal member that seals an inner peripheral portion between the front chamber and the rear chamber.

10. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein the elastic coupling mechanism has a driven plate fixed to the turbine.

11. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 10, further comprising

a stator having a shell supported via a one-way clutch,

a first thrust bearing axially disposed between the shell and an impeller hub of the impeller, and

a second thrust bearing axially disposed between the one-way clutch and a flange of the turbine hub.

12. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 5, wherein the radial width of the support portion of the piston is three to four times larger than the plate thickness of the piston.

13. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 8, wherein the radial width of the support portion of the piston is three to four times larger than the plate thickness of the piston.

14. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 8, further comprising an elastic coupling mechanism arranged at an outer peripheral portion of the turbine and the piston to couple the turbine and the piston.

15. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 14, wherein the elastic coupling mechanism has a driven plate fixed to the turbine.

16. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 15, further comprising

a stator having a shell supported via a one-way clutch,

a first thrust bearing axially disposed between the shell and an impeller hub of the impeller, and

a second thrust bearing axially disposed between the one-way clutch and a flange of the turbine hub.

17. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein

the piston has an outer peripheral cylindrical portion extending axially from the outer peripheral edge of the main body toward the transmission, and

the elastic coupling mechanism has a plurality of elastic members disposed on an inner peripheral side of the outer peripheral cylindrical portion, a driven member fixed to the turbine, retaining the elastic members, and supporting the circumferentially opposite ends of each elastic member, and a drive member fixed to the turbine and supporting the circumferentially opposite ends of each elastic member.

18. (New) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 17, wherein

the driven member is inserted between the elastic members in the axial direction.